



Press Release

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture
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Idaho Potato Stocks Up 4 percent from Last Year

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on December 1 totaled 94.0 million cwt, 4.00 million cwt more than on hand December 1, 2006. Disappearance, at 37.7 million cwt is down from last year's 38.9 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 4.90 million cwt, up from last year's 4.30 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 89.1 million cwt, were up from the 85.7 million cwt stored on December 1, 2006. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 7.58 million cwt of 2007 crop raw potatoes during November, up 3 percent from November 2006. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon have used 26.2 million cwt of 2007 crop raw potatoes to December 1, down 3 percent from last year. Idaho potatoes accounted for 20.9 million cwt of the total processed. The remaining 5.33 million cwt were produced in other states.

Size and grade data is now available for the 2007 crop. Idaho's Potato Objective Yield Survey showed for the 2007 crop, 32.6 percent of the potatoes were at least ten ounces, compared to 29.9 percent that reached that size in 2006. Of the Russet potatoes in the 2007 sample, 71.9 percent met the 2.0 inch or 4 oz. minimum size and grade requirements for U.S. No. 1 potatoes, down from 77.0 percent last year. Processing grade, with a 1.5 inch minimum, accounted for 27.1 percent of the 2007 crop.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 270 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2007, up 4 percent from last year and 6 percent above December 1, 2005. Potatoes in storage account for 68 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 4.20 million cwt on December 1, 2007, up 5 percent from last year. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon, potato stocks. Potato disappearance, at 130 million cwt, is virtually unchanged from last year but up 8 percent from 2005. Season to date shrink and loss, at 13.9 million cwt, is up 5 percent from 2006 and 9 percent above 2 years ago. Processors in the 9 major States have used 72.0 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 3 percent from a year ago but 10 percent above 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 12.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 13 percent from last year but 7 percent above the same date in 2005.



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